Prices of pulses in the international market (tentative):

(Rate in USD/PMT, C&F)

Sl. No	Commodity	2004	2005	2006	2007(upto July)
1.	Tur	296.50	332.71(12.21%)	349.38(5.01 %)	498.21(42.60%)
2.	Moong	309.79	468.96(51.38%)	605.83(29.19%)	647.14(6.82%)
3.	Urad	229.17	392.29(71.18%)	623.96(59.05%)	602.86(-3.38%)
4.	Gram	304.58	328.33(7.80%)	553.75(68.65%)	578.21(4.42%)
5.	Masoor	433.33	443.75(2.40%)	448.96(1.17%)	572.86(27.60%)

* Annual increase of prices in brackets and the annual increase of prices for 2007 on the prices upto July, 2007

Assistance to Andhra Pradesh

59. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made by Government of Andhra Pradesh for providing 30 kgs. of rice instead of 35 kgs. and in lieu of 5 kgs. of rice, 7.5 kgs. of jowar or ragi may be provided so as to give additional nutritients to poor people;

(b) if so, the details of the request; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government on the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the answer for part (a) above.

Quality of wheat imported from US

60. SHRI P. R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report from a team of officials that the US wheat is not fit to be imported;

(b) if so, the details of the report; and

(c) what action Government propose to take against the US wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A delegation of officials from the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, as part of ongoing bilateral negotiations, held plant health bilateral discussions with the United States of America (USA) in May 2007. The discussions covered various bilateral matters, *inter-alia*, import of wheat and pulses into India from the USA. The delegation reported that the request of the USA for relaxation of

phytosanitary norms, regarding tolerance levels of quarantine weed seeds in wheat consignments, was not accepted by India, in view of the likely threat of entry of quarantine weeds into the country, which do not exist presently in India.

Further, no import consignments, not conforming with the Phytosanitary specifications prescribed under Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) order, 2003, will be permitted entry into the country.

Price rise

61. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor persons in the country are suffering heavily due to heavy price rises during the last three years;

(b) if so, the comparative details thereof year-wise and item price-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) why Government are not controlling the situation;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the price rise of many essential items are uncontrolled; and

(f) if so, how Government propose to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Prices of foodgrains, especially of wheat, pulses and edible oil had registered an increase during the year 2006-07. However, Government has taken steps to insulate the poor section of society from price rise by distribution of these commodities through PDS. It has protected the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) beneficiaries. Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice have not been revised since 1.07.2002 for APL and BPL, while the Central Issue Prices for AAY has not been revised since the launch of the scheme in December 2000.

(b) Detail of item wise average retail price at Delhi centre during the last three years is given in table below:-

Commodity	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*
Wheat	8.58	9.42	11.08	11.50
Gram dal	22.71	25.58	35.21	33.00
Tur dal	32.17	32.58	34.25	38.50
Groundnut oil	84.92	83.00	90.00	103.25
Mustard oil	54.17	50.08	53.17	57.75
Vanaspati oil	53.67	47.92	53.58	57.25
Onion	8.46	10.25	10.17	11.38
Potato	7.67	9.00	9.71	11.00

* Prices upto July, 07